

Message Text

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TAGS: ENGR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG ENERGY EMERGENCY LAW PASSED LEGISLATIVE BODIES

REF: BONN 16142

1. SUMMARY. THE FRG PARLIAMENT PASSED EMERGENCY OIL SUPPLY MEASURES CLEARING THE WAY FOR ENACTMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON NOVEMBER 10. THE ECONOMICS MINISTER REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION NOT TO USE THE BROAD MANDATE IN LAW AT PRESENT, PREFERRING TO RELY ON VOLUNTARY MEASURES TO REDUCE GASOLINE AND HEATING OIL CONSUMPTION. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE "LAW TO ASSURE THE ENERGY SUPPLY IN CASE OF A THREAT TO,

OR A DISTURBANCE IN, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IMPORTS" WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY BOTH THE BUNDESTAG AND THE BUNDESRAT ON NOVEMBER 9. AN AMENDMENT TO LIMIT THE LAW'S VALIDITY UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1974, INTRODUCED AT CDU/CSU INITIATIVE, WAS ALSO UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED. THE LAW IS SCHEDULED TO BE SIGNED BY THE ACTING FRG PRESIDENT, THE MINISTER PRESIDENT OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, FOLBINGER, THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 9 SINCE FEDERAL PRESIDENT HEINEMANN IS IN BERLIN. THE LAW IS SCHEDULED TO BE PROMULGATED IN TODAY'S FEDERAL LEGAL GAZETTE SO THAT IT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON NOVEMBER 10.

3. THE LAW AUTHORIZES THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY TO ISSUE LEGAL ORDINANCES TO CONTROL THE USE OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND NATURAL GAS. SUCH ORDINANCES DO NOT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE FRG PARLIAMENT IF THEIR VALIDITY IS LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. ORDINANCES OF LONGER VALIDITIES OR AN EXTENSION BEYOND SIX MONTHS WILL REQUIRE BUNDESRAT CONSENT. IN THE EVENT THE BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT OPPOSE A SPECIFIC ORDINANCE THEY ARE AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST THAT IT BE WITHDRAWN.

4. CHANCELLOR BRANDT, IN A STATEMENT BEFORE THE BUNDESRAT, REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPLY THE LAW ONLY IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE BUNDESRAT AND BUNDESTAG.

5. AS THE MAIN GOVERNMENT SPEAKER DURING THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE, ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS DEPLORED THE DECEMBER 31, 1974 RESTRICTION ON THE VALIDITY OF THE LAW. HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS AT THE PRESENT TIME TO MAKE USE OF THE LAW. INSTEAD, HE APPEALED TO CONSUMERS TO EXERCISE REASON AND SELF-DISCIPLINE BY CONSERVING ENERGY E.G., THROUGH RATIONAL DRIVING OR THROUGH LOWERING THE TEMPERATURES OF OIL HEATING. WITH THESE VOLUNTARY MEASURES FRIDERICHS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME SUPPLY BOTTLENECKS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO ARISE AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, WITHOUT APPLYING THE NEW LAW. FRIDERICHS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE ASKED HIS ECONOMICS MINISTER COLLEAGUES IN THE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY MATTERS AND THAT HE WROTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION PROPOSING CLOSE COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY. IN A REMARK, ADDRESSED TO OPEC, THE MINISTER CAUTIONED

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THAT ONE DAY NEW COMPETITIVE ENERGY SOURCES WILL BE DEVELOPED WHICH WILL SUBPLANT THE CRUCIAL POSITION HELD BY PETROLEUM IN ENERGY SUPPLY.

6. AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE LAW WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM. HILLENBRAND

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